

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A soft capsule comprising a fill material filling a shell, wherein the fill material is in a solid or semi-solid form at room temperature and the fill material comprises a low melting point additive comprising a chocolate base comprising cacao butter, wherein said soft capsule has been subjected to aging for 5 hours or more at a temperature of 30 to 40 °C so that the shell and fill material are homogenized with each other; and wherein the soft capsule is a chewable capsule.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the content of the low melting point additive is 10% or more with respect to the total weight of the fill material.

5. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 4, wherein the content of the low melting point additive is 30% or more with respect to the total weight of the fill material.

6. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 5, wherein the content of the low melting point additive is 50% or more with respect to the total weight of the fill material.

7. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to any one of claims 1, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the melting point of the low melting point additive is about 20 to 50°C.

8. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to any one of claims 1, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the low melting point additive further comprises a second ingredient selected from lard, coconut oil, MACROGOL® (polyethylene glycol), or combinations thereof.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the chocolate base further comprises bitter chocolate.

11. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 10, wherein the cacao butter includes a major amount of V-type crystal and a minor amount of VI-type crystal.

12. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the fill material further comprises a sweetening agent.

13. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 12, wherein the sweetening agent is selected from the group consisting of aspartame, disodium glycyrrhizinate, saccharin sodium, stevia and thaumatin as well as a combination thereof.

14. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 13, wherein the fill material comprises cacao butter and aspartame.

15. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 12, wherein the fill material further comprises a saccharide.

16. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 15, wherein the saccharide is selected from the group consisting of sucrose, D-mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, D-sorbitol, maltose, reduced maltose syrup and maltitol as well as a combination thereof.

17. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 12, wherein the fill material further comprises an aromatic.

18. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 17, wherein the aromatic is chocolate flavor.

19. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the shell comprises the following components (A) and (B):

(A) gelatin; and

(B) one or more plasticizers selected from (b1) to (b3), wherein a total of 100 to 600 weight parts of the plasticizers is present in the shell with respect to 100 weight parts of gelatin:

(b1) glycerin,

(b2) saccharide plasticizer selected from the group consisting of sucrose, fructose, D-mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, D-sorbitol, maltose, reduced maltose syrup, maltitol, sucrose alcohol and isomerized sugar as well as a combination thereof, and

(b3) glycol selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol and polyethylene glycol as well as a combination thereof.

20. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 19, wherein the plasticizers (B) include the glycerin (b1).

21. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 19, wherein the shell further comprises (C) water-insoluble cellulose, wherein 5 to 100 weight parts of water-insoluble cellulose is present in the shell with respect to 100 weight parts of the gelatin.

22. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 19, wherein the shell further comprises (D) a sweetener.

23. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 22, wherein the sweetener (D) is selected from the group consisting of saccharin sodium, stevia and thaumatin as well as a combination thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the fill material comprises a drug.

25. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 24, wherein the content of the drug is 60% or less with respect to the total weight of the fill material.

26. (Original) A soft capsule according to claim 25, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of an antipyretic analgesic drug component, a rhinitis drug component, an antitussive expectorant drug component and a vitamin component as well as a combination thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 1, wherein the fill material comprises a food.

28. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft capsule according to claim 1, comprising the step of:
filling the shell with the fill material.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 28, wherein the fill material comprises cacao butter and the method further comprises the step of:
subjecting the fill material filling in the shell to aging at a temperature of 30 to 40 °C.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the aging is conducted for 10 hours or more.

31. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 8, wherein the second ingredient is lard.

32. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 8, wherein the second ingredient is coconut oil.

33. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to claim 8, wherein the second ingredient is MACROGOL® (polyethylene glycol).

34. (Previously Presented) A soft capsule according to any one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the melting point of the low melting point additive is about 20 to 50°C and wherein the low melting point additive further comprises lard, coconut oil, MACROGOL® (polyethylene glycol), or combinations thereof.

35. (New) The soft capsule of claim 1, wherein the soft capsule has been subjected to aging for 5 hours to 16 hours at a temperature of about 35°C.

36. (New) A soft capsule comprising a fill material filling a shell:
wherein the fill material is in a solid or semi-solid form at room temperature;

wherein the fill material comprises (i) a chocolate base comprising cacao butter and bitter chocolate, and (ii) a drug;

wherein said soft capsule has been subjected to aging for 5 hours or more at a temperature of 30 to 40 °C; and

wherein the soft capsule is a chewable capsule.

37. (New) A soft capsule produced by:
melting a chocolate base comprising cacao butter to produce a fill material;

producing a shell;

filling the shell with the fill material; and

drying the filled material in a drying chamber at a temperature of 30 to 40 °C for 5 hours or more to produce the soft capsule.